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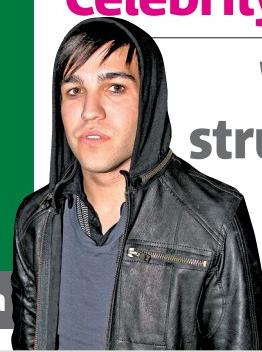
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EDMONTON JANUARY 6, 2009

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Celebrity Buzz



Wentz
struggles
with
stress
pg 14

Vandals set off gas blast: Cops

B.C. Mounties in northeastern B.C. believe vandals are behind another explosion that rocked a natural gas pipeline Sunday.

A work crew found a metering shed damaged at an EnCana wellhead site near the community of Tomslake, about 550 km northwest of Edmonton.

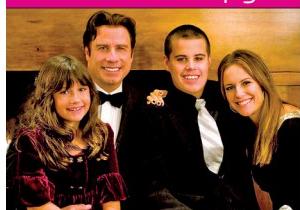
Mounties say no injuries or any gas was leaked after the blast.

The explosion is the fourth deliberately set blast directed at gas infrastructure owned by EnCana, said the company.

Damage was minimal in all four explosions.

Investigators from the Integrated National Security Enforcement Team, the Explosives Disposal Unit and Forensic Identification are handling the latest case, say Mounties. **METRO EDMONTON**

Entertainment pg 12



Seizure killed Jett Travolta

Your Money pg 8

Work smarter,
not harder

Health pg 10

Get better skin



CHRIS WATTIE/REUTERS

Team Canada Five times

Canada's Thomas Hickey celebrates with goaltender Dustin Tokarski, left, after their team defeated Sweden in the gold medal game at the 2009 IIHF U20 World Junior Hockey Championships in Ottawa last night. More coverage, page 9.

Duped by teen?

"It's not easy for me to talk about and I'm disgusted with myself for falling for her lies saying she was 20."

Michael Hoffart

caught the pair in a car early Saturday in a parking lot in the town of Gibbons.

Investigations revealed the girl was 15 years old. Criminal Code legislation passed in the spring states the new age of consent for sexual activity is 16.

Hoffart is charged with two counts of sexual assault, two counts of sexual interference, and two counts of invitation to sexual touching.

onus for confirming the identity of people met online falls on the older adult, if any doubt exists.

"It's 100 per cent his responsibility," said Dorthe Flauer, Strathcona Sexual Assault Centre spokeswoman, adding while engaging in sexual activity with someone under the age of 20, "some alarm bells should have gone off," for the accused.

The girl and her family are currently working with social services.

Hoffart makes his first court appearance in Morinville Thursday. If convicted, he could face up to 10 years in prison.

The garage was damaged in the second attack, and no injuries were sustained.

Police spokesman Jeff Wuite could not confirm if the bombs were connected to the string of Molotov cocktail attacks that area residents saw over the summer.

Police met with concerned community members and students from Mill Woods high schools in July to discuss the bombings.

Officers are currently investigating to determine whether the attacks are connected.

No arrests were made and no charges were laid in connection with any of the incidents.

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PCL Construction named the second best workplace in country

Edmonton-based company PCL Construction Management Inc. has been named the second best place to work in Canada, according to Report on Business. The business magazine listed the construction company second among 50 of the best businesses across the country. **METRO EDMONTON**

Local



Shovel your walk or pay up

The city says bylaw officers are now hitting the streets to hand out tickets to property owners who have neglected to shovel their sidewalks and pathways. Property owners are responsible for clearing all snow from city sidewalks that are adjacent to their properties within 48 hours of a snowfall, said the city. About 650 tickets were issued last year.

METRO EDMONTON

Bankruptcy rates soaring as of late

JEFF CUMMINGS
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ECONOMY An Edmonton bankruptcy trustee says his office has already seen an increase in the number of people filing for bankruptcy and he expects things will only get busier in the new year.

Barton Goth, a bankruptcy trustee at Goth & Company Inc., says the increase has been "quite dramatic" between September to October 2008 when economies around the world began to nosedive.

"It doesn't seem to have slowed down," said Goth. "Our volume went up and we had a large volume to start with."

The number of bankruptcies in Canada has started to rise in 2008, according to figures from the Office of Superintendent of Bankruptcy Canada.

The figures say 46 per cent more bankruptcies were filed than in September the same month in 2007. October also saw a 51 per cent increase from the previous month.

"I expect it will be busy this year," said Goth.

"We've got an average household right now that spends 131 per cent of its monthly take home income and that's just something that has been going on for far too long."

Gypsy cabs filling the void

Taxi service aimed at helping friends get home safely

VICTORIA HANDSIDES
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A posse of homegrown gypsies are getting back to their nomadic roots by getting weary travellers off the streets and into 21st century caravan convoys.

The Str'8 Up Gypsies are a group of local guys, bent on getting friends from point A to point B safely, and in a comfortable environment, for a pre-set price.

"We're doing this for fun," said gypsy cab founder Travis Boa, adding the idea started through a want to provide transport in cold winter months for friends without wheels.

The gypsies started rolling on the roads of the 780 around the holiday season, and parties abound have wrought many prosperous nights, giving partiers a reliable alternative to the lure of drinking and driving.

The fleet hit the streets



Leon Hunter, left, Nicko Urkow, centre, and Kyle Nickerson of the Str'8 Up Gypsies pose with two of the vehicles operated by their budget taxi service.

shortly after the Edmonton Vehicle For Hire Commission instated a \$3 surcharge for all taxi customers after 11 p.m., an added expense that's pushed budget travellers to alternative means of getting around.

Cabbies met Sunday to

discuss frustrations with the commission to bring forward to council, including non-commissioned taxis, and the city's proposal to issue more taxi licences.

So far, the gypsies are keeping advertising old school and low-key —

through word of mouth, and word is spreading fast.

"We try to keep it really community-centred," said driver Leon Hunter. "Most clients are our friends, and we're really relaxed, as far as the whole business exchange aspect goes — it's straight up."

Car-truck crash claims two lives

ACCIDENT A driver and passenger of a car died Friday afternoon, after their vehicle collided with a water tanker truck near Redwater.

The car was unable to stop on an icy road entering southbound onto Highway 643.

It was hit by the westbound truck. Both occupants were killed instantly.

METRO EDMONTON

Property tax notices mailed

BILLS Homeowners can expect to start receiving their property tax notices in the mail within the next few days.

Nearly 300,000 assessments were mailed out to help homeowners understand this year's calculations. Final tax bills will be mailed out in May, after adjustments between property classes and the addition of the provincial education tax.

METRO EDMONTON

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WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Read Stripes asks if MPs are earning those fat paycheques at [metronews.ca](#)

Blog Mourners at hockey player's funeral sing him one last Christmas carol at [metronews.ca/canada](#)

Analysis Nanotechnology is changing the way we live at [metronews.ca/canada](#)



Sheriffs help make big weapons bust

JEFF CUMMINGS
jeff.cummings@metronews.ca

they pulled over Saturday.

Sheriffs pulled over the suspicious vehicle on 23 Avenue and Rabbit Hill Road around 2:20 p.m.

While conducting the traffic stop, the sheriffs discovered a weapon and ammunition inside the

vehicle, prompting them to call police, said city cops.

When police from the service's southwest division arrived, cops found three handguns in a hidden compartment in the truck, two rifles, and ammunition for all of the

weapons.

Police say two of those handguns were loaded.

Cody James Kermode, 18, and Andy Christopher Estrada, 18, are both charged with more than 40 offences, including numerous firearms related offences.

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A video game developed at the University of Calgary that simulates driving while drunk has attracted the attention of the U.S. army. Jim Parker, creator of Booze Cruise, says the U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Centre is trying the game out on soldiers who have been in Iraq. **CBC NEWS ONLINE**

Canada



Expensive extension

Toronto city council yesterday approved a seven-kilometre, \$2.5-billion extension to the city's Yonge subway line. The proposal has been sent to the Ontario government and if the province will help fund the plan, the subway will be extended in the suburb of Richmond Hill by 2017.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Flaherty meets with top bankers

Federal finance minister urges Canadian banks to make credit available

Canada's finance minister and central bank chief met with the country's top bank executives yesterday to prod them to loosen up lending, officials said.

A spokesman for Finance Minister Jim Flaherty confirmed the meeting took place early yesterday. Bank of Canada governor Mark Carney also attended, according to his spokesman.

Neither would comment on the meeting.

Flaherty will speak to reporters this morning, prior to pre-budget consultations in Montreal, and is expected to comment then

"Banks are trying to fill the gap, but we're not able to take up all the slack."

Nancy Hughes Anthony, Canadian Bankers Association

on the talks with the banks.

The head of the Canadian Bankers Association, who also attended the meeting, said Flaherty expressed concern about the availability of credit for businesses and individuals.

"We assured the minister that the banks are committed to doing what they can to help Canada weather

any recession and that they will continue to lend to credit-worthy individuals and businesses," Nancy Hughes Anthony, president and chief executive of the CBA, said in a statement.

Hughes Anthony said banks represent only half the credit market for small and mid-sized businesses and that non-bank funding

sources to these businesses are the ones that have been curbing their lending.

"Banks are trying to fill the gap, but we're not able to take up all the slack from other providers," she said.

She defended the Canadian banks' prudent lending practices and said it was best to stick to those practices, protecting depositors' money.

The National Post newspaper reported yesterday that Flaherty would discuss with the banks a range of proposals under

consideration to ease credit conditions.

The proposals, which could potentially be worked into the Jan. 27 budget, include the government acting as guarantor for different types of loans, in addition to its traditional role as guarantor of mortgages.

Ottawa could also provide tax incentives for investors to buy preferred shares in banks, as an alternative way to raise financing with reduced risk, the newspaper said, citing people briefed on the agenda.

REUTERS

Ontario man runs for top Puntland office

SOMALIA A Mississauga man running for president of Puntland, an Islamic state within Somalia at the Horn of Africa, promises to end piracy against international shipping by creating jobs.

Adam Esse said pirates would rather fish or do other work, rather than raid ships and hold them for ransom.

Stopping the piracy that is disrupting shipping and terrorizing sailors in the Gulf of Aden requires basic development that would lead to other jobs, he said by phone yesterday from the capital, Garowe.

"I want to become president to change the bad situation that we have over here in terms of security, stability, the economy, education and equality between the genders."

Man to appeal shaken-baby case

ONTARIO A man convicted nearly 14 years ago in the death of his two-month-old son says he "did nothing" to harm the child but felt pressured to plead guilty after "the king" of pediatric forensic pathologists — the now disgraced Dr. Charles Smith — entered the case.

Richard Brant, 36, explains his actions in an affidavit filed for a hearing today in the Ontario Court of Appeal, where lawyers will ask that he be allowed to appeal his conviction.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Quebec woman faces murder charges in death of kids, husband

QUEBEC Her voice was not weak, as might be expected, as it came through the speakerphone in the courtroom. On the line from her hospital bed, she coughed twice and simply said "yes," she could hear the judge well and, "yes," she understood the charges against her.

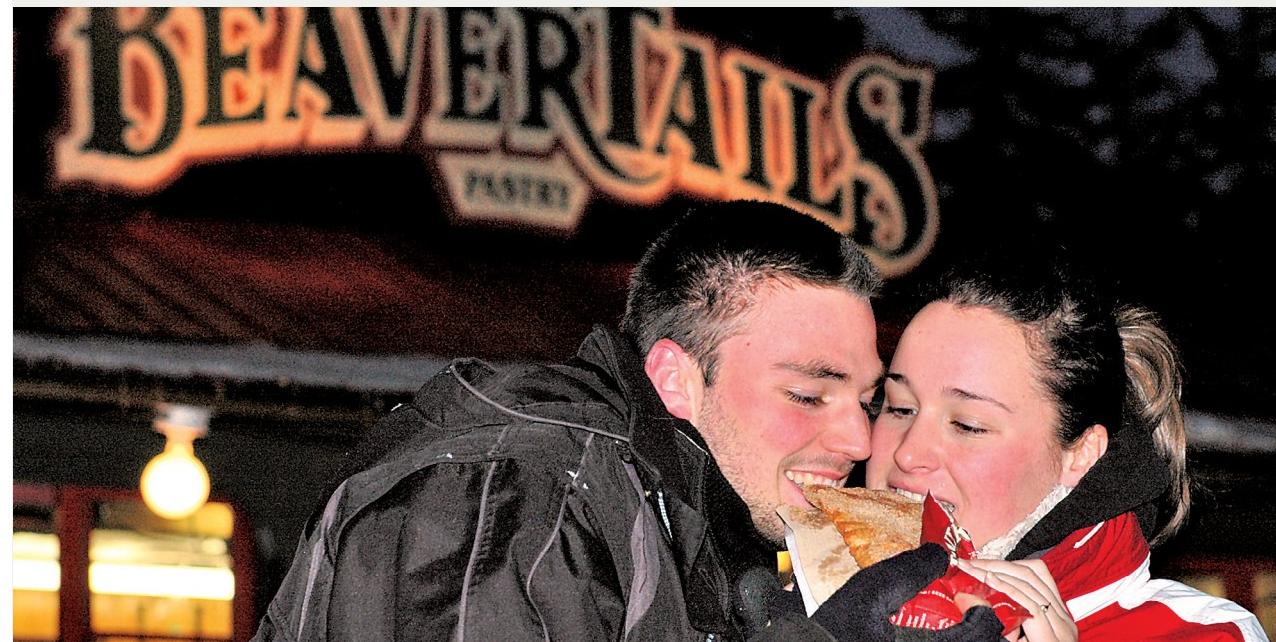
Cathie Gauthier-Lachance, 36, the only survivor of what police have called a suicide pact undertaken with her

husband to kill their children and then themselves, was arraigned yesterday on first-degree murder charges of her three young children, and in a last-minute addition, the assisted suicide of her husband, 46-year-old Marc Laliberté.

The bodies of Laliberté and the children, 12-year-old Joelle, seven-year-old Marc-Ange, Louis-Philippe, 4, are undergoing autopsies in Montreal.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Ottawa Sweet treat on the canal



Dany Lafontaine and Julie Gosselin, both from Gatineau, Ont., share a Beaver Tail while taking a break from skating on the Rideau Canal Skateway last night. Thousands of people have taken to the ice since a two-kilometre stretch between Pretoria Bridge and Bank Street opened on New Year's Day. National Capital Commission spokesperson Julie Rocheleau said crews are working to prepare the rest of the canal, but there are still sections where the ice is too thin and it is impossible to predict when it would be ready.

Wanted Calgary woman caught in Halifax

JENNIFER TAPLIN
Metro Canada



HALIFAX A woman wanted in relation to a homicide in Alberta was discovered in Halifax this weekend.

At around 8:30 a.m. on Sunday morning, a car rolled over. The two people in the car — an 18-year-old woman and a 50-year-old man — were treated by paramedics when they found something in the woman's mouth.

"She was being treated by

EHS when they found a piece of tinfoil in her mouth. They believed it was drugs, so they turned it over," said Cpl. Joe Taplin with the Halifax RCMP.

They don't know yet what the suspected drug is — it's being analyzed in the lab. The male driver is facing charges of impaired driving.

But as the RCMP checked out the woman, they found that there was a Canada-wide warrant for her arrest. Calgary RCMP Sgt. Patrick Webb said she was charged for allegedly being a party to the offence, which means she didn't participate in the actual homicide, but she (allegedly) participated in something either before or after it."

the Sept. 1 homicide of Sharmane Mohaned Warsame, 39, outside Brooks, Alta.

"It was this incident where this man was (allegedly) beaten by five males and they've all been arrested and charged and are in the court system," Webb said.

"She's charged as a party to the offence, which means she didn't participate in the actual homicide, but she (allegedly) participated in something either before or after it."

News in brief

DONATIONS Hammered by the economic downturn, Canadian charities are urging the federal government to create incentives in the upcoming budget to encourage rich donors to give more during tough times. A group of charities yesterday urged Ottawa to exempt gifts of private company shares and real estate from the capital gains tax.

MURDER Escalating gang violence in Calgary has claimed its first-ever innocent victim, a hard-working Samoan man forging an honest life for himself. Kene Su'a, 43, was gunned

down on New Year's Day while dining alone over soup at Bolso Restaurant, an innocent bystander in the wrong place at the wrong time, according to police.

DEAL STRUCK The New Brunswick government and the province's 5,500 nurses have reached a tentative deal, avoiding a possible provincewide strike, CBC News Online reports. Marilyn Quinn, president of the New Brunswick Nurses Union, said the tentative agreement was struck at 1 a.m. yesterday.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

China cracks down on search engines, other sites for vulgarity

China has launched a crackdown on websites as the country enters a politically sensitive year, with officials accusing search engines, including Google and Chinese engine Baidu, of spreading pornography and vulgarity. A report on an official news website said repeated violators and those that had a "malign influence" might be exposed, punished or shut down. **REUTERS**

World



Panetta picked as CIA head

U.S. president-elect Barack Obama has chosen Leon Panetta, who was White House chief of staff for Bill Clinton, to lead the CIA. Democratic officials said yesterday. Outside of his stint in the White House, where he served between 1994 and 1997, Panetta has relatively little experience in national security matters.

REUTERS

Israel ignores calls for truce

Israeli troops backed by air strikes fought to seize ground from Hamas militants deep inside the Gaza Strip yesterday despite international calls for a ceasefire in a conflict that has killed more than 540 Palestinians in 10 days.

More than 33 civilians, including children, were killed yesterday, the third day of an Israeli ground offensive. Three Israeli soldiers were killed and about

20 were wounded by an Israeli tank shell fired in error, the military said. A total of four soldiers have been killed since Israel launched the assault.

Israel said it killed dozens of Islamist guerrillas as the battle crept into the suburbs of the city of Gaza itself.

Israel's defence minister said the assault, which he hopes can stem rocket fire on its own towns, could

Bush's demands

- U.S. President George W. Bush insisted yesterday that any Gaza ceasefire must include provisions to prevent Hamas from using the coastal strip to fire rockets into Israel.

Threats of resuming suicide bombings have yet to materialize.

Israel, whose leaders are fighting a parliamentary election on Feb. 10, made clear its priority was to secure the safety of its citizens.

REUTERS

Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni speaks about the Mideast conflict at metronews.ca/world

Iguanas unseen by Darwin offer evolution clue

SCIENCE Pink iguanas unknown to Charles Darwin during his visits to the Galapagos islands may provide evidence of species divergence far earlier than the English naturalist's famous finches, researchers said yesterday.

The findings describe the black-striped reptiles — first seen in 1986 and only a few times since — as a new species, said Gabriele Gentile of the University Tor Vergata in Rome, who led the study.

During Darwin's visit to the Galapagos in 1835 his observations of finch varieties with different-shaped beaks, which they evolved to adapt to changes in food, were key in his formulation of his theory of evolution by natural selection. Darwin did not visit areas inhabited by the pink land iguana and so missed the species, whose existence suggests diversification in the Galapagos happened some five million years ago. **REUTERS**

India Mourning procession



Shi'ite Muslims flagellate themselves during a Moharram procession yesterday in Ahmedabad. Muslims all over the world mourn the slaying of Imam Hussein, a grandson of Prophet Mohammed, during the first 10 days of the Islamic month of Moharram. Imam Hussein was killed by his political rivals along with 72 companions in Iraq some 1,300 years ago.

News in brief

INTERNET More than half of teenagers mention risky behaviours on their MySpace accounts, U.S. researchers said yesterday. An analysis of 500 randomly selected 18-year-

olds' accounts on the site showed 54 per cent of profiles they checked contained information about high-risk behaviours: 41 per cent mentioned substance abuse, 24 per cent

sexual behaviour and 14 per cent violence.

PREGNANCY A test performed in early pregnancy to check for genetic defects may be linked to increased risk the child will

be born with a birthmark. Chorionic villus sampling, or CVS, involves using a needle to collect samples of the structure that forms the placenta. Researchers found birthmarks

gions, including Toronto, where 43 people died.

The disease killed some 800 people globally before being brought under control through travel restrictions and quarantine.

Coronaviruses cause diseases in animals and in people from the common cold to severe illness. They also cause SARS, which scientists believe, like influenza, initially came from an animal. **REUTERS**

India hands Pakistan Mumbai evidence

ATTACKS India handed over evidence yesterday to Pakistan that it said linked Pakistani militants to the Mumbai attacks and demanded a prompt investigation, piling diplomatic pressure on its nuclear-armed rival.

India has blamed Pakistani militants for the November attacks, which killed 179 people and reignited tension between the neighbours who have fought three wars since 1947, but this is the first time it has given evidence to Islamabad.

Foreign secretary Shiv Shankar Menon said it "beggars the imagination" that no Pakistani officials

knew about preparations for the assault on India's financial hub.

The evidence included a confession from the man India says is the lone surviving gunman, details of communication links with "elements in Pakistan," and data retrieved from GPS and satellite phones, India's foreign ministry said.

Pakistan said it would look into the evidence.

India says it has not been satisfied by Pakistan's response thus far. New Delhi wants Islamabad to dismantle what it says are terrorist training camps on Pakistani territory and extradite 40 suspects. **REUTERS**

Dutch scientists create replica of SARS virus

HEALTH Dutch researchers have built a three-dimensional model of a type of virus that causes SARS in a step that could one day help in the battle against the deadly disease.

The model, created using hepatitis coronavirus from mice, will help scientists understand severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), which appeared in China in 2002 and spread to other re-

gions, including Toronto, where 43 people died.

The disease killed some 800 people globally before being brought under control through travel restrictions and quarantine.

Coronaviruses cause diseases in animals and in people from the common cold to severe illness. They also cause SARS, which scientists believe, like influenza, initially came from an animal. **REUTERS**

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Comment & Views

Comment

Back to the starting point

National Report



Lawrence Martin

Fair to say that a decade or two ago, we didn't care much about Afghanistan. Just another Third World basket case. Let the ethnic tribes there bloody one another up. Let superpowers try to harness it.

Then a couple things happened. The Taliban got singled out as being exporters of terrorism and as running a government even more medieval than other tribes. We had a general, the popular Rick Hillier, who was gung-ho on getting Canada back on war footing. We figured we owed the Americans some-

The Americans are getting set to send in new forces, which will more than compensate for Canadian withdrawals.

thing because we hadn't joined them in Iraq and hadn't agreed to their missile-defence program. So we sent troops to the Afghan hot zone of Kandahar.

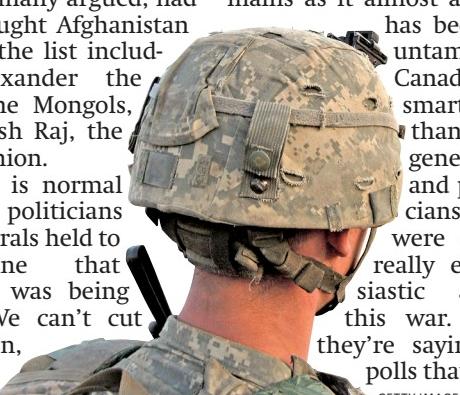
The usual right-left debate ensued with one side rah rah on war and the other dubious. No foreign invader, many argued, had ever brought Afghanistan to heel, the list including Alexander the Great, the Mongols, the British Raj, the Soviet Union.

But as is normal in war, politicians and generals held to the line that progress was being made. We can't cut and run,

said. And if you don't cheer for the war effort, you're not supporting our troops. In other words, the usual patriot games, some legitimate, some just plain old bullshite.

But today, there is a consensus that says that little or no progress has been made, that Afghanistan remains as it almost always

has been — untamable. Canadians, smarter than their generals and politicians, were never really enthusiastic about this war. Now they're saying in polls that they



GETTY IMAGES

want their troops out before the deadline of 2011.

The Americans are getting set to send in new forces, which will more than compensate for Canadian withdrawals, if and when they occur. With this effort the new president, Barack Obama, will be able to prevent the Taliban from regaining power. But it will require his getting bogged down in a long war.

There will be more pressure from his White House for Canadians to stay on. But Canadians will have seen enough. They will turn back the clock. It will be just about as it was before. They won't care much about Afghanistan. They'll leave it to the Afghans and the superpowers — and save their soldiers from dying from roadside bombs.

Lawrence Martin is a Globe and Mail correspondent and author who writes about national affairs from Ottawa.

**FIRST THE GOOD NEWS...
...PEOPLE SEEM SLIGHTLY LESS
FOCUSED ON THE ECONOMY.**



MICHAEL DE ADDER

Views

Neutral the toughest stance on Mideast



Mona Eltahawy
Global View

I was born in Egypt during one war with Israel, have vivid memories of another war with Israel, and I was the first Egyptian to live and work in Israel for a Western news agency when I moved there from Cairo at the end of 1997 as a Reuters correspondent.

And here's the best piece of advice on the Middle East you will get today.

Sit on the fence.

Strange coming from an opinion writer who makes a living out of taking positions? Yes. But it's too easy to take sides in the Middle East conflict. Few other parts of the world inspire such passion or leave such little room for doubt. For many, choosing sides is

just an afterthought to their birthright: If you're an Arab, go join the Free Palestine demonstrations; and if you're Jewish, go join the Save Israel marches.

Don't forget, you can always throw God into the mix. Lay claim to your holy sites and you'll have religiously sanctioned wrath to fuel your rage.

But what's the point of choosing sides when both sides are losing? The real challenge when it comes to the Middle East is to sit on the fence and to understand that as with most chapters of this interminable conflict, civilians pay the most expensive price.

From that perch up there on the fence, keep your eyes firmly on Israeli and Palestinian civilians and ask about the responsibility of leaders to their

The hardest thing is to scream "Enough!" at a time when both sides seem bent on mutual destruction.

people.

The civilians of Gaza are victims of both Hamas and Israel.

The former have been more concerned with firing ineffectual rockets at southern Israel where they targeted the very group of people they are now accusing Israel of hurting the most in Gaza — civilians.

Israel has launched a punishing bombardment and invasion of Gaza that will be used as the latest proof that it is the neighbourhood bully. Its actions are bound to turn Hamas

into the very heroes they don't deserve to be and possibly unleash a new wave of unconscionable suicide bombings against Israeli civilians.

And all for what?

For those of us from the region, the easiest thing might be to follow our birthright to bias. But the hardest thing is to scream "Enough!" at a time when both sides seem bent on mutual destruction and when to criticize your side ensures accusations of being a sellout.

But I insist on staying on that fence and being a sellout for peace.

Stay on that fence with me and scream and yell for a ceasefire.

Enough violence.

Mona Eltahawy is an award-winning Egyptian-born commentator and public speaker on Arab and Muslim issues. She reported on the Middle East for 10 years before moving to the U.S.

Letters

So much for the economic meltdown

Re: Your year's pay a day's work for top CEOs (Jan. 2)

I was astounded to learn from the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA) that the salaries of Canada's top CEOs have reached unprecedented new heights.

So much for the economic meltdown.

While these characters were dragging in bigger and bigger salaries, upwards of 70,000 Canadians lost their jobs.

The rest of us are preparing to ride out the rough year ahead, while the country's top executives appear to be immune from any fallout.

According to the CCPA report, the 100 highest paid CEOs of Canadian publicly traded corporations received an average of \$10,408,054 in total compensation in 2007.

Many of the top 100 include Canada's big bank CEOs, who recently received billions in a federal government bailout to purchase mortgage loans, and energy CEOs who, until recently, were surfing the big wave of high oil prices.

Average CEO pay for the top 100 was up 22 per cent from its \$8.5 million average in 2006.

In contrast, the earnings of average Canadians rose by only 3.2 per cent — the best increase in the past five years, but a tiny fraction of the CEOs' pay hike and barely keeping up with inflation.

Many of these corporations have enjoyed several years of huge profits by gouging us at the pumps and at the bank machines.

DANNY CAVANAGH, PRESIDENT
CUPE NOVA SCOTIA

Kudos to Metro's editorial cartoonist

I have particularly enjoyed recently the small editorial cartoons that have appeared in Metro. Editorial cartoonists have a unique talent of highlighting the crux of the issue and giving readers a better appreciation and understanding of the issue. Michael de Adder's cartoons are "clean" and not cluttered. His cartoons are an invaluable addition to Metro and provide interesting and stimulating inclusion in our household.

FRANKLIN CHOW, OTTAWA

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New York Times to sell front-page display ads

The New York Times said it would sell display advertising on its front page, its latest step to seek new ways to make money as it deals with a prolonged ad revenue downturn. The Times has run discreetly placed classified advertising on the front before. **REUTERS**

Business

EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Bleak month for auto sales

Worst December in 12 years

Canada's auto market crashed during the holiday season, one more piece of evidence of a deepening recession.

Despite incentives, showroom sales plunged 21.2 per cent or more than 25,000 vehicles to 94,423 in December from the same month in 2007, manufacturers reported yesterday.

The results marked the worst decline in auto sales for any month since 2003. It was also the lowest level for a December in 12 years.

The bleak December pulled down overall 2008 sales in Canada by 1.1 per cent, or more than 17,000 to 1.653 million cars and trucks. That followed three years of annual increases.

Analysts are forecasting more big dents in the first

Hyundai

- Hyundai Motor Co. has rolled out a new incentive program for U.S. consumers that allows them to return financed or leased vehicles within the first year of purchase if they lose income.

second place in sales in Canada from fourth spot, ahead of Chrysler and Ford. Its sales rose 11.3 per cent to a record 224,158 in 2008 from 2007. GM of Canada, the longtime leader of sales in the country, was again ranked No. 1.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Honda Civic overtakes Ford pickup as most popular

AUTOMOTIVE The Honda Civic compact has surpassed the Ford F-Series pickup truck to become Canada's most popular vehicle.

Sales of the Civic climbed two per cent to 72,463, while the F-Series pickup, which led the market for five consecutive years, slid eight per cent to 67,749 in 2008, the companies revealed yesterday.

It marks the first time in

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Business in brief

WOOLWORTHS Shoppers hunted for bargains before the doors close at Woolworths, one of Britain's best known retailers and one of the first big-name businesses to fail in the global downturn. About 600 of the chain's 815 stores have already closed and the rest are set to close this week, with the loss of 27,000 jobs.

MADOFF More than 8,000 forms have been mailed to customers of accused swindler Bernard Madoff so they can make claims by March or July.

REUTERS

* Prices are subject to change without prior notice. Prices vary based on prescription strength. Applicable to surgery on both eyes only.

† Subject to Desjardins Card Services credit approval. No payments, no interest until January 2010.

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Japan Hoping for bull market in year of the ox



Women dressed in ceremonial kimonos and a person in a cow outfit representing the year of the ox pose at the Tokyo Stock Exchange's new year opening ceremony in Tokyo yesterday. Japan's Nikkei average rose 1.5 per cent yesterday, the first trading day of 2009, after Wall Street rallied Friday to its highest levels since November on hopes 2009 will be a better year. The Japanese year of the ox began on Jan. 1.

U.S. fiscal deal could be delayed

STIMULUS U.S. president-elect Barack Obama went to the U.S. capitol yesterday to press for swift passage of a huge spending and tax-cut package amid signs his centerpiece economic stimulus plan, expected to cost about \$775 billion US over two years, may face delays.

Obama's fellow Democrats had hoped to have such a package ready for the new president to sign as soon as he takes office in two weeks. But they now say it will take at least a month or so longer to put together an initiative that can draw bipartisan support to clear a possible Senate Republican roadblock. Republicans are raising concerns the Obama stimulus plan may presage a new era of uncontrolled government spending.

REUTERS

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Your Money

EDITOR: NINA DRAGICEVIC, NINA.DRAGICEVIC@METRONEWS.CA



Enough talking, get walking

Q My new year's resolution is to get rich! Get into shape! Help the less privileged! Buy low, sell high! Quit smoking! Travel more! Win the lottery!

A The new year is a great time for us to put 2008 behind us and reboot for another year. Although my accounting and tax background does not give me the qualifications to help you lose weight or quit smoking, its approach may not be much different. Here is some of my advice:

- Be realistic with resolutions. "I want to look like I did as a teenager!" Don't we all!
- Don't just "say;" "do." The word resolution implies action. Resolutions cannot be accomplished without following through. Stop talking about joining a health club, just do it.

Money Matters

Henry Choo Chong
choochonghcg@yahoo.ca

- As important as the resolution is having a plan for its execution. Without a plan, there will be no success. "This year, I would like to save for a house." Where will the savings come from? Identify how you can increase income and cut expenses.
- Set long-term goals but achievable objectives that can be measured periodically. For example: Lose four pounds a month. Pre-authorize monthly RRSP contributions. Set up automatic payments for investment.

Reach Henry Choo Chong, CGA, at choochonghcg@yahoo.ca.

Work smarter, not harder



Being a Smart Cookie isn't just about finding ways to spend less and save more, it's about making more money too. And just to be clear, we do not mean taking a job you hate because the paycheque's better. As we enter into 2009, we encourage you to find ways to attract more money into your life. And to get you started, here are a few Smart Cookie tips.

Turn Your Passion into a Paycheque:

With a little effort and creativity, it's possible to turn almost any pastime into a paycheque. For example, one of our Smart Cookies was interested in learning about and tasting new wines. She had a



One Smart Cookie got a job at her favourite furniture store (which offered employees a 40 per cent discount) and used the money she made working at the store to buy her discounted furnishings

friend who started a business that offered wine tastings at company events and she offered to help out. This was a great opportunity for her to make extra cash, sample some wine and meet new people.

Why Not Make Some Money AND Reap the Benefits?

Consider taking on a part-time job at your favourite store — many retail stores hire extra employees to help out during

their busy season. One of us was furnishing a new condo, got a job at her favourite furniture store (which offered employees 40 per cent discount) and used the money she made working at the store to buy her discounted furnishings.

Clean Out Your Clutter

Anything you haven't used in over a year, you no longer need! But rather than throwing these items away, why not find them a new home? One of the

Smart Cookies makes about \$300 at the end of each season and puts that toward new clothes. Another sold her wedding dress for \$800 on craigslist.org. You can do the same with sporting equipment, toys, CDs, books, almost anything.

What about Passive Income?

There are ways to increase your monthly income, without lifting a finger. For example, if you pay monthly for a space in a garage, but you know your car will be gone during work hours or you'll never use it, you can rent out your space during the weekdays to someone who works near your parking spot. Advertise the space on craigslist.org or in your local paper. One of our Cookies rents out her space and earns an additional \$50 per month.

Consider contract work

If it's not a conflict with your full-time job, look for freelance or contract opportunities. By utilizing her contacts, one of us was able to get additional contract work providing PR services outside of her full-time job, earning an extra \$2,000 per month!

Tune in Wednesday night at 9 p.m. EST/PST on the W Network and be sure to visit smartcookies.com for more tips.

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Harrison picks up defensive hardware

Pittsburgh Steelers linebacker James Harrison won The Associated Press 2008 NFL Defensive Player of the Year award yesterday, after registering a team-record 16 sacks, and leading the NFL with seven forced fumbles in the regular season. METRO NEWS SERVICES



Sports

JOHN.CHICK@METRONEWS.CA

High five for Canada

WJC CHAMPIONSHIP**Canada 5 Sweden 1**

Team Canada won its fifth gold medal in a row at the world junior hockey championships last night, taking a first-period lead on P.K. Subban's second effort just 38 seconds into the game and riding the goaltending of a suddenly hot Dustin Tokarski.

Angelo Esposito scored on a backhand in the second period, Cody Hodgson let rip a wrister on the power play in the third, and Jordan Eberle and Hodgson scored into an empty net in a 5-1 win over Sweden, which takes home silver for the second year in a row.

Shaky in every outing before last night, Tokarski faced 40 shots, stood tall and was named player of the game.

John Tavares was named the tournament's most valuable player and



Team Canada players Patrice Cormier, back, defenceman Thomas Hickey, defenceman Ryan Ellis and John Tavares, right, line up behind P.K. Subban after he scored against Sweden last night.

a first-team all-star. He was joined on the all-star team by Hodgson and Subban.

The crowd of 20,380 at Scotiabank Place — who

cheered Swedish defenceman Victor Hedman and goalie Jacob Markstrom all night — was a new single-game attendance record for the world jun-

tors. With Prime Minister Stephen Harper and his security entourage in attendance, and a huge Canadian flag making its way around the lower bowl, the stage was set for the international showcase of junior hockey's two best teams.

Emotions ran high in the second, as Canada extended its lead to 2-0 on the goal by Esposito.

Hedman took a few punches at Esposito, who wisely didn't swing back, after the Canadian had a run-in with Markstrom as the goalie skated after a loose puck.

The crowd jeered Markstrom, believing he was putting on a show by flopping on the ice after his collision with Esposito.

It was Markstrom's third questionable flop of the game.

Hedman didn't get a penalty and was booed the rest of the evening.

Esposito got his revenge on the same shift, scoring on a backhander after scooping the puck off David Rundblad.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Heisman winner a big Canucks fan

YorkReport
Marty York

marty.york@metronews.ca

The top player in U.S. college football is a hockey fanatic. His favourite team: the Vancouver Canucks.

In fact, while in high school in Oklahoma City, quarterback Sam Bradford had a ritual in which he'd watch The Mighty Ducks movie and check out the latest Canucks' results before turning in for the night. "Hockey was and maybe still is my favourite sport to watch," said the Heisman Trophy winner, who will lead the No. 1 Oklahoma Sooners against the No. 2 Florida Gators in the BCS national championship game Thursday

night. "I love the Canucks. (Vancouver goaltender) Roberto Luongo is outstanding."

• Spring training, believe it or not, begins next month but one of baseball's premier sluggers remains a ManRam without a home. Not that Manny Ramirez isn't attracting interest.

"The problem," an MLB general manager told me yesterday, "isn't Manny. It's Manny's agent. He's ridiculous."

Scott Boras has long had a reputation for stubbornness. In Ramirez's case, the agent hasn't budged on demands for about \$20 million U.S. a year, despite the lamentable economy and his client's age (almost 37).

"Manny's one of the great hitters of our lifetimes, a clutch batter who'd fit into the heart of every order in baseball," the aforementioned GM said. "And he might have an attitude issue, too, but the pros outweigh the cons for him. It's just his agent's stance that's hurting him now. If he had another representative, I'm sure he'd have a team by now."

Ramirez was a major boon on the field and at the box office for the Dodgers after they acquired him in a trade with the Boston Red Sox last season, and Los Angeles continues to pursue him, as do the San Francisco Giants,

Tampa Bay Rays and New York Yankees. Even the Blue Jays might make a pitch for him if they could suc-

ceed in their attempts to unload Scott Rolen and/or Lyle Overbay and their guaranteed contracts.

"Manny ultimately will get a contract and will get a lot of money," the GM said, "but, unless he switches agents, he may not sign any time soon. That just won't happen. There always has been an owner who's lost his mind when it comes to offers for players of Manny's calibre, but I strongly doubt it'll happen this time. The general consensus is that Boras is just too unreasonable."

• An athlete who has lowered his financial demands: Shaquille O'Neal.

In November, the NBA star listed his Miami Beach mansion for \$35 million. His new asking price: \$25 mil.

Sam Bradford and Oklahoma play Florida for the BCS Championship on Thursday.

More online

Former NHL star Eric Lindros returned a call to Metro's Marty York yesterday but refused to clear up any of the mystery surrounding him. Visit metronews.ca/sports for more details.



Win for Wozniak

Fourth-seeded Aleksandra Wozniak, left, of Blainville, Que., beat Slovakia's Magdalena Rybarikova 6-3, 6-7 (4), 7-5 in the first round at the ASB Classic women's tennis tournament in New Zealand yesterday. All four seeded players progressed to the second round of the singles.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

REUTERS/DAN RIEDLHUBER



Mike Comrie and Dwayne Roloson battle for the puck last night.

Make it two in a row

NHL RESULT**Islanders 2 Oilers 3**

THE SKINNY: Losers of 12 straight games on the road and dead-last in NHL standings, the Islanders jumped out to a two-goal lead but gave up the next three goals on the way to making it 13 straight road losses.

THE BIG PLAY: Andrew Cogliano scored the winner at 9:58 of the third period when he jammed the rebound of a Marc Pouliot slapshot into the net for his 12th goal of the season.

TWICE LUCKY: The Oilers pulled even on two lucky goals

ROBIN BROWNLEE/
FOR METRO EDMONTON

were not released, but numerous reports have stated that the contract will be worth \$16 million. Burrell hit .250 with 33 home runs and drove in 86 runs for the World Champion Phillies last season. He had spent his entire nine-year career in Philadelphia, averaging 31 homers and 99 RBI over the past four seasons. METRO NEWS SERVICES

SCOREBOARD**WJC**

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
GOLD MEDAL GAME
Canada 5 Sweden 1

TONIGHT'S GAMES
BRONZE MEDAL GAME
Russia 5 Slovakia 2

NHL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
EDMONTON 3 N.Y. Islanders 2

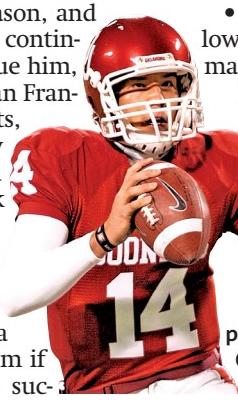
N.Y. Rangers 4 Pittsburgh 0

TODAY'S GAMES

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Philadelphia at Washington
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Florida at Toronto
Atlanta at Pittsburgh
Columbus at Detroit
Colorado at Nashville

San Jose at Calgary
Chicago at Phoenix
Los Angeles at Anaheim**NBA**

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
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Sam Bradford and Oklahoma play Florida for the BCS Championship on Thursday.

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If you go too long between meals, drink half a cup of juice to stabilize blood sugar levels before you eat to back your body up from its "starvation" mode. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Between meals

Health & Beauty

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE COLACINO, ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

Start '09 with a skin deep focus

Meet your New Year's resolutions by addressing your complexion first

JANINE FALCON
for Metro Canada



Turns out that focusing on better skin nutrition can help meet at least three 2009 resolutions: 1) to spend less, 2) to lose weight, and 3) to get on a less stressful, healthy-living track.

"The skin is a good indicator of what's going on inside," says Dr. Joey Shulman, D.C., registered nutritionist and author of The Natural Makeover Diet: 4 Steps to Inner Health and Outer Beauty. "For example, if you eat too many pro-inflammatory foods, such as sugar, refined flour, fried food, alcohol and saturated fats, you'll

wake up looking puffy and red."

Rather than pricey "miracle" products or procedures,

A-rich foods," says Shulman.

Naturopath Dr. Alan Logan, author of The Clear Skin Diet and research-and-development co-ordinator for Genuine Health,

friendly as a diet change, which, in addition to improving skin (in as little as a week), could improve the numbers on The Clear Skin Diet

"Fish is skin's best friend. Orally consumed fish collagen also provides the body with raw materials to manufacture the collagen skin needs."

Alan Logan, author of

your bathroom scale. "Replace the

bad stuff with dark leafy greens, broccoli, spinach, winter squash, carrots,

sweet potatoes — vitamin

and processed tomato. We

need more colourful fruit and veg, such as blueberries, fresh tomatoes and cale. The deeper the colour

of the produce, the more dense it is in polyphenols, naturally-occurring antioxidants."

Omega-3 fatty acid-rich foods also rank high in the good-skin eating plan because, say Shulman and Logan, they boost skin's natural moisture levels. Shulman recommends cold-water fish, nuts, and seeds, as well as omega-3 fortified eggs and milk. Another hydrating must is water, which gets overlooked in the winter. Shulman suggests green or white tea as alternatives. "They're anti-inflammatory and high in antioxidants, plus

white tea can help deal with sugar cravings because

it's on

the sweet side."

According to Logan, green tea and fish oil both help reduce levels of cortisol, a hormone the body releases under stress. "Cortisol attacks collagen, the scaffolding of the skin," he says. "Fish is skin's best friend. Orally consumed

Rather than pricey "miracle" products or procedures, the good-skin fix can be as simple and budget friendly as a diet change, including vitamin A and omega-3 fatty acid-rich foods.

fish collagen also provides the body with raw materials to manufacture the collagen skin needs," he adds.

Dr. Michael Davies, a dermatologist at SpaMedica in Toronto, says "a well-balanced diet is best, but supplements can help when we can't get what we need." He recommends, and himself takes,

daily doses of 1000mg of vitamin D (available at drugstores). "The fact is that a whole day in the sun without protection won't produce enough natural vitamin D," he says. "Wear sunscreen; take the supplement."



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Fitness tips for novices

EXERCISE Fitness Institute owner Steve Roest's tips for novices:

- Schedule exercise as you would a business meeting. Morning is better, because it's easier to get sidetracked as the day goes on.
- Set challenging but realistic goals.
- Start slowly. Set short-term goals to boost your

confidence and stay motivated.

- Expect some soreness, boredom and frustration. Plan how to overcome them.
- Do resistance training about three times a week. Muscle mass raises your metabolism, burning more calories.



Experts recommend resistance training three times a week.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Achieve the body of a dancer

Try easy-to-follow workouts that integrate firming and toning techniques by teachers of jazz, modern dance, yoga and aerobic fitness classes in the new Dance to Fitness DVD by The Method, \$9.99. Buy at Amazon.ca. METRO



Science and sex: Unstimulating

The J Spot**Josey Vogels**

Sex talk with Josey



gasms in those who entered.

Since then, we've been on a mission to find a quick fix, effortless solution to our sexual dissatisfaction.

Viagra, of course, has been the star of the show; the magic blue pill that had formerly sexually unsatisfied couples suddenly dancing down the street and singing.

And, when the makers of Viagra didn't succeed in coming up with a female version, others stepped in and pharmaceutical labs are currently hard at work developing a nasal spray, an injection, and a pill to treat female sexual dysfunction, a condition that didn't even exist a decade ago.

I sympathize with men and women who experience legitimate sexual problems, in some cases as a result of physical or psychological issues. But the drive to find a magical scientific solution to boost our flaccid sex drives is disturbing.

Whatever happened to good old-fashioned seduction? Bah, who has time for that these days? That requires effort and communication and actually doing some things that reawaken your sexual self. A pill would be so much easier. But the fact is, even if a pill or an implant or a spray can stimulate desire or guarantee an erection or an orgasm, it can't guarantee good sex.

That requires some good old-fashioned elbow grease. Or at least a good lube.

Josey Vogels is a sex and relationship columnist and author of five books on the subjects. For more info, visit joseyvogels.com.

The drive to find a magical scientific solution to boost our flaccid sex drives is disturbing.

An announcement just before the holidays that British scientists were developing an implant to stimulate pleasures centres in the brain caused the usual flurry of headlines that every new scientific solution to our seemingly increasingly lousy sex lives

seems to cause. Headlines everywhere announced the discovery of a so-called "super sex chip" that was set to turn us all on at the flip of a switch.

Never mind that the implant is meant for people who suffer from "anhedonia," a condition I'd never even heard of until now, but that apparently results in an inability to enjoy or experience pleasure from such activities as eating and sex. Or that the currently "intrusive and crude" technology requires surgery to connect a wire from a heart pacemaker into the brain and needs about 10 years worth of development.

Blame Woody Allen for launching our obsession with instant sexual satisfaction. He introduced the "Orgasmatron" in his cheesy 1973 movie *Sleeper*, a phone-booth-like machine that induced instant or-

New year gear

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Winsor Pilates' Mari Winsor leads this weight-loss and muscle-toning program that promises to flatten your abs while giving you a total body workout. It comes with a 50-minute DVD and the CorePlus Reformer fitness tool, which is a four-loop design that engages the whole body. Available for \$32.99 at Amazon.ca.



The Double Layer Fitness Tank (seen in lime light) comes with an inside bra liner and racerback. Available for \$44.50 at La Senza Spirit (glasenzaspirit.com).



Anti-bacterial socks, \$8.50. Available at La Senza Spirit (glasenzaspirit.com).



Stretch jersey pants from Smart Set's activewear collection, Müv, \$32.



Yoga mats designed for enduring performance and reliability. Available in a variety of patterns. This Koi Fish Print is \$29.99. Available at Amazon.ca.



Keep your water cold and fresh while keeping disposable bottles out of our landfills with a lightweight Gaiam aluminum bottle. Available in four designs for \$12.99 each at Amazon.ca.



Breathable side panel purple and black jacket from Smart Set's activewear collection, Müv, \$38.

Velocity Tailored Back Print Sports Bra, \$24.50, in blue; and Lightly Lined Racerback Sports Bra, \$34.50, in pink. Both available at La Senza Spirit (glasenzaspirit.com).

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Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa led the foreign box office for the fourth time in five weekends as the overseas tally for the animal cartoon raced to \$340 million US — about \$2 million more than the final total of its 2005 predecessor. **REUTERS**

Entertainment

EDITOR: DEAN LISK, DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

DVD picks

Pineapple Express

Director: David Gordon Green
Rating: 18A

IN A PERFECT world, stoner comedies would be enjoyed in a theatre converted into a giant bong. It's too often the case, as it is with Pineapple Express, that the tokers onscreen have a far better time than the sober judges in the seats. This should change with home DVD showings, where what you do in your basement is your own concern. Whatever is in the titular bud that Seth Rogen and James Franco are inhaling their enjoyment of it is almost selfish, since they're getting laughs that we are denied. But you need not worry about being locked into one style of yuks. Apatow is big on hybrid humour, and so apparently is his unlikely di-



rectorial disciple David Gordon Green. Pineapple Express is both a stoner laugher and a bloody crime satire about duelling drug lords and crooked cops. The body count is large and the violence is quite nasty. Luckily, Franco's sleepy-eyed dealer Saul is one of those sweet discoveries that makes you willing to forgive the film's flaws. Saul dispenses drugs to Rogen's Dale, a process server whose brazen methods are at odds with his conservative demeanour. Things get complicated, and then some, and the movie gets more violent as less funny as it goes along.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

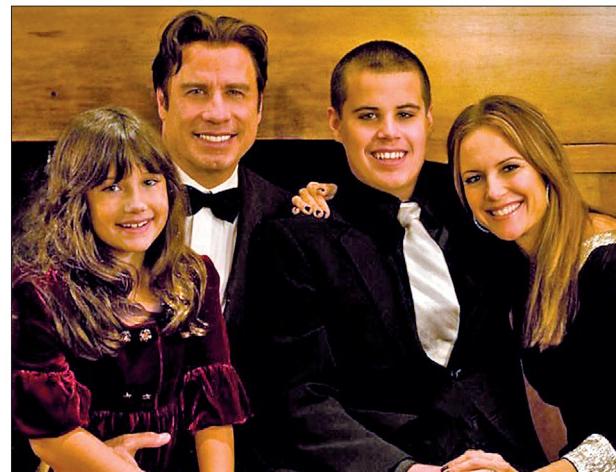
Travolta undergoes autopsy

Two pathologists appointed by Bahamian authorities performed an autopsy yesterday on the body of actor John Travolta's 16-year-old son, Jett, who died last week after suffering a seizure at the family's holiday home.

Jett, who had a history of seizures, was found unconscious in a bathroom at the home in the Old Bahama Bay resort on Grand Bahama Island on Friday morning. He was pronounced dead after being taken by ambulance to Rand Memorial Hospital in Freeport.

A family doctor sat in on the autopsy at the request of the Travolta family. Results were not released. However, other media outlets have reported Travolta's death certificate says he was killed by a seizure.

Obie Wilchcombe, a



Actor John Travolta, second left, poses with daughter Ella Bleu, left, wife Kelly Preston, right, and son Jett in an undated family photo.

member of parliament for western Grand Bahama, said the autopsy was completed at around noon and paperwork was finished two hours later.

Jett's body was moved from Rand Memorial Hos-

pital to Restview Funeral Home in Freeport, where it was being prepared for transport to the United States, Wilchcombe said.

"The preparation of the body will take an estimated 12 to 13 hours," he said.



For the latest on this story, visit metronews.ca/entertainment

Dozens of relatives flew to Grand Bahama to comfort John Travolta and his wife, actress Kelly Preston, Wilchcombe said.

John Travolta and paramedics tried without success to resuscitate the boy.

The family's earlier statement did not refer to Jett's medical history or possible cause of death. But Travolta's lawyers, Michael Ossi and Michael McDermott, were quoted on Sunday as saying Jett apparently suffered from grand mal seizures, which can cause loss of consciousness.

He was on an anti-seizure medication called Depakote for several years, Ossi and McDermott told the celebrity website TMZ.

REUTERS

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Amy Winehouse is becoming a fashion designer, reports London newspaper The Sun. The singer has apparently been bragging that she is already in negotiations with Fred Perry, saying she has already sketched some designs for them. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Uncle Benji dishes about new niece

PEOPLE Harlow Winter Kate Madden won't be a year old until Jan. 11, but her uncle, Benji Madden, already has a warning for potential suitors, people.com reports.

"I'm going to be keeping a close eye on her," Madden, 29, told People about the daughter of twin brother Joel Madden and his girlfriend Nicole Richie, 27. "I'll leave the shotgun right by the door."

People says the Good Charlotte guitarist is thrilled with the way Harlow's parents have been raising her so far. "When they had her, their instincts just kind of came out, and it's amazing to see," he said. "They just really put their child above everything."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



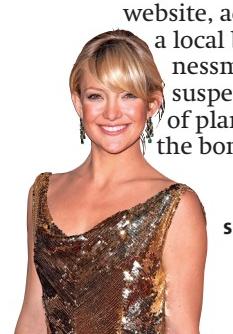
Celebrity scares at New Years

SCARE Kate Hudson and Mariah Carey spent New Year's Eve amidst bomb threats, femalefirst.co.uk is reporting. Four homemade bombs were planted around celebrity retreats in Aspen, Colo., according to The New York Post.

Goldie Hawn, Nick Cannon and Jack Nicholson are also said to have been in the area, reports the website, adding

a local businessman is suspected of planting the bombs.

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David and Nicole a couple?

RELATIONSHIP Eonline.com is reporting that Nicolle Sheridan and David Spade are a couple, noting the two had dinner together on Saturday in the Palazzo in Las Vegas.

"Although there wasn't major PDA, they definitely were affectionate throughout their meal," a source reportedly told the website.

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Kate pregnant?

BABY Kate Moss is reportedly pregnant, according to femalefirst.co.uk

The supermodel — who has a six-year-old daughter, Lila Grace, with ex-boyfriend Jefferson Hack — fuelled rumours she is expecting a baby after she was seen clutching her stomach while on holiday in

Thailand with partner Jamie Hince, the gossip website reports.



A source said: "Even though she had a cigarette in her hand, Kate definitely looks as though she's expecting."

"She was walking with Jamie and Lila but kept putting one hand on her stomach — you could clearly see she has a bump there, even though she was wearing a baggy top."

Friends were expecting the 34-year-old British beauty to announce her pregnancy last month when she and Jamie threw a party at her Cotswolds home, the website says.

Prior to the bash, a source close to Kate — who is rumoured to have given up drinking — said: "Kate has been on the phone to all her friends and her assistant has been on the case to her family."

"Kate has had a few big nights out recently but she has been behaving more than usual. Even Simon Cowell said she had a bit of a tummy when she went to watch his show The X Factor."

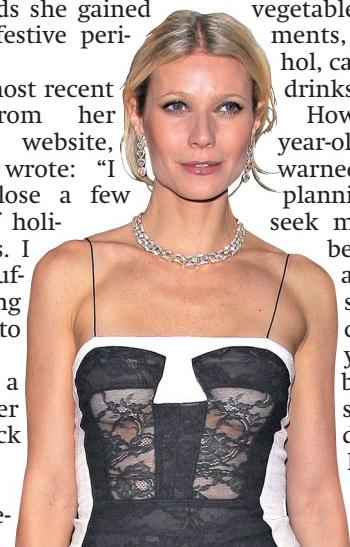
However, the bash passed with no major announcement, the website reports. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Gwyneth on new year's detox plan

HEALTH Gwyneth Paltrow has embarked upon a post-Christmas detox, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The actress is taking drastic measures to shift the excess pounds she gained over the festive period.

In the most recent e-mail from her goop.com website, Gwyneth wrote: "I need to lose a few pounds of holiday excess. I will be suffering along with you to kickstart my year a bit lighter — good luck to us all!"

According to re-



ports, banned substances in Gwyneth's post-holiday diet include: Dairy, gluten, meat, shellfish, all processed food, fatty nuts, potatoes and other related vegetables, condiments, sugar, alcohol, caffeine or fizzy drinks.

However, the 36-year-old actress has warned anyone planning to detox to seek medical advice before starting, adding, "Make sure you check with your doctor before you start any detox. Drink a lot of water."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Pete fights paranoia

PEOPLE Pete Wentz is always paranoid, according to femalefirst.co.uk. The Fall Out Boy rocker struggles to control his anxiety and says medication no longer helps his problem, the website reports, adding the he admitted: "I'm paranoid pretty much all the time. I can take three Xanax and not feel a thing."

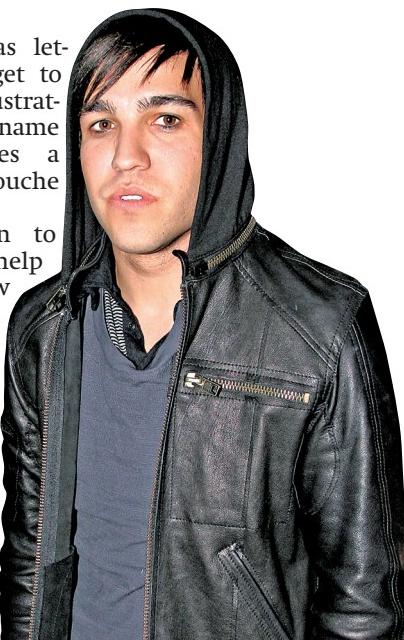
Pete — whose wife Ashlee Simpson gave birth to their first child, son Bronx Mowgli, in November — also revealed he has stopped reading about himself online because the barrage of criticism gets him down.

He added to Blender

magazine: "I was letting the blogs get to me. It's semi-frustrating when your name actually becomes a synonym for douche bag."

Pete's decision to avoid blogs may help with his new year's resolution, the website says, adding the 29-year-old musician has vowed to control his language around his family.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



again. I would do his craft service, really. I feel like we work very well together, because we're very comfortable with each other. Because we're friends, and we challenge each other.

"I'm in a strange kind of age group. But I'm looking very much forward to growing older in this industry, probably contrary to popular belief.

"I feel like there's a lot of opportunity for women that are a bit older than me.

"A lot of the actors that I really admire are probably ten or 15 years older than me, and just have wonderful opportunities."

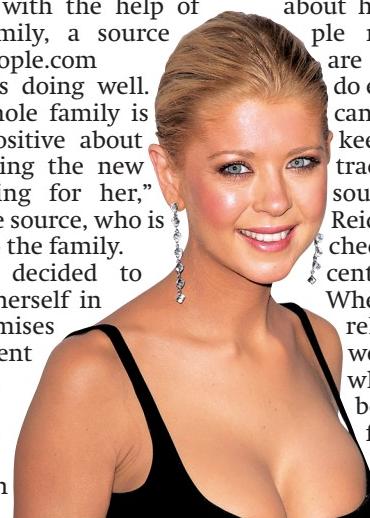
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Tara 'doing well': Source

PEOPLE Tara Reid checked into rehab last month and is getting her life back together with the help of her family, a source tells people.com

"She's doing well. The whole family is very positive about this being the new beginning for her," says the source, who is close to the family.

Reid decided to check herself in to Promises Treatment Centre, and though she's been in



treatment less than a month, her family and friends are optimistic about her future, People reports. "They are taking steps to do everything they can to help Tara keep on the right track," adds the source, who says Reid is expected to check out of the centre shortly.

When she entered rehab her rep would not reveal what Reid was being treated for.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

ScarJo eager to age as actress

CAREER Scarlett Johansson enjoys working with Woody Allen because he doesn't care about her age, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The 24-year-old star — who has collaborated with the director on three movies, Vicky Cristina Barcelona, Scoop and Match Point — is looking forward to getting older because she believes she will get offered more interesting parts, but says working with Woody has already given her experiences she didn't expect to have at her age.

She explained: "I hope to work with him



again. I would do his craft service, really. I feel like we work very well together, because we're very comfortable with each other. Because we're friends, and we challenge each other.

"I'm in a strange kind of age group. But I'm looking very much forward to growing older in this industry, probably contrary to popular belief.

"I feel like there's a lot of opportunity for women that are a bit older than me.

"A lot of the actors that I really admire are probably ten or 15 years older than me, and just have wonderful opportunities."

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ADVICE After a couple of failed marriages under her belt, Carmen Electra feels comfortable dishing out a smart suggestion, people.com reports.

"My advice to anyone is to not get married in Vegas," she told People. "Do not get married at the drive-thru in Vegas, especially. Take your time — enjoy it!"

Electra, 36, adds: "It's important to think out marriage in general because

it's a huge commitment. Besides that, I hate to say it, but it's a lot of paperwork and a lot of emotions. It can be difficult."

Electra married former NBA All-Star Dennis Rodman in 1998 and filed for an annulment just nine days later. Now Electra, who also was once hitched to rocker Dave Navarro, is engaged to former Korn guitarist Rob Patterson, 38. But they have no plans to marry any time soon.



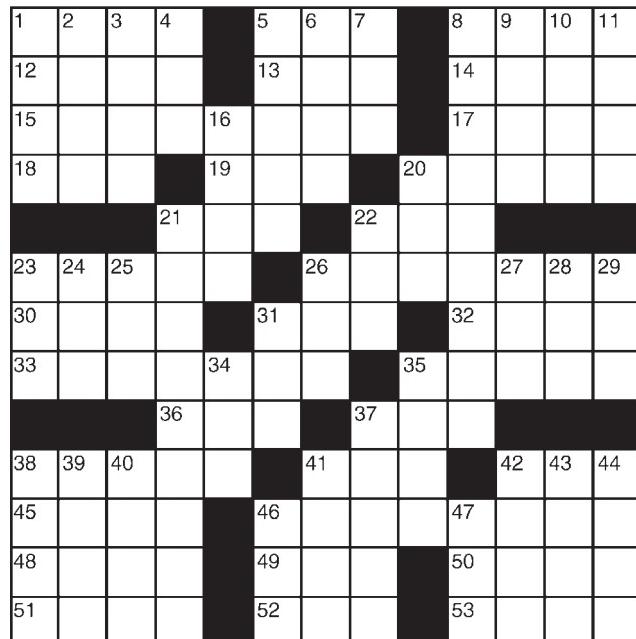
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Wednesday
Scattered flurries.
-16°C / -19°CThursday
Early flurries.
-12°C / -22°C

Michele McDougall, Weather Specialist & Host – Breakfast Television

“My favourite part is reporting the weather. It fascinates me, and as we know around here, it’s always changing, keeping forecasters on their toes.”

WEEKDAYS AT 6 A.M.



Crossword across

- 1 Candle circler
 5 Hot tub
 8 Sunbeams
 12 Land measure
 13 It may be faux
 14 Curved molding
 15 St. Patrick's Day symbol
 17 Just adorable
 18 Plaything
 19 Anger
 20 Wool quantity
 21 Barracks bed
 22 Victory
 23 Trivial
 26 Takes for a time
 30 State
 31 Tibetan critter
 32 Reed instrument
 33 Inhabitant
 35 Michigan city
 36 2004 horror movie
 37 Zero
 38 Pointed
 41 Tuna container
 42 “Indubitably”
 45 — contendere
 46 Saturday Evening Post cover artist
 48 Oil-cartel acronym
 49 Ford or Lincoln
 50 Additionally
 51 It lasts for days
 52 Hearty brew
 53 Merriment

Crossword down

- 1 Sail support
 2 Siete + uno
 3 Salver
 4 Height of fashion?
 5 Recreational activity
 6 Wear a rut in the rug
 7 Request
 8 Elvis' genre
 9 Malaria symptom
 10 Bigfoot's cousin
 11 No longer hidden
 16 Urban disturbance
 20 Knight's address
 21 Voice of Marty the Zebra in Madagascar
 22 Moo goo gai pan pan
 23 Young fellow
 24 “— Got a Secret”
 25 Army rank (Abbr.)
 26 Proscribe
 27 Sapporo sash
 28 Money of North Korea
 29 Collection
 31 Evergreen variety
 34 Use a ray gun
 35 Stoolie
 37 Mother-of-pearl
 38 Frosty's makeup
 39 Crosby crony
 40 Sheltered
 41 Brat's stocking stuffer
 42 Holler
 43 Differently
 44 — gin fizz
 46 Nipper's co.
 47 Move back and forth

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



8	2	6	7	5	4	3	9	1
4	7	9	2	3	1	5	8	6
1	3	5	9	6	8	2	4	7
6	9	7	1	8	3	4	2	5
3	1	2	5	4	7	8	6	9
5	4	8	6	2	9	7	1	3
7	8	3	4	9	6	1	5	2
9	5	1	8	7	2	6	3	4
2	6	4	3	1	5	9	7	8

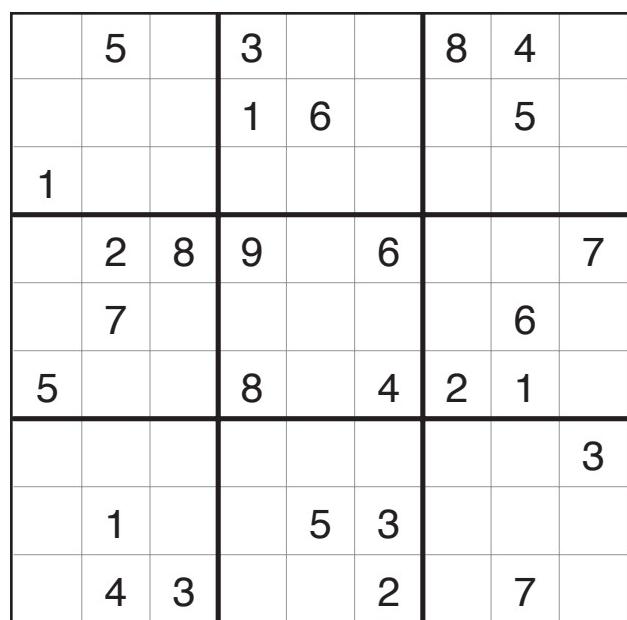
Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:

Under 13 min Genius
13-17 min Scholar17-21 min Smart
21-25 min Not bad
25+ min Keep practising

Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.



PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

CROSSWORD

Under 13 min Genius
13-17 min Scholar17-21 min Smart
21-25 min Not bad
25+ min Keep practising

Horoscopes

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20

A boss is defeated by a fanatical person. Be more than eager to praise others. Make a fresh start with an unfortunate opponent.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21

Gloomy thoughts will melt away. A woman lets you in on a secret. A tardy guy will stand his ground.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21

Don't rely on anyone who lacks good timing. Time will heal all, after a promise is broken. You'll endure overwhelming emotions.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22

You'll want to talk about hope. A lover's moodiness creates a crisis. Your tactfulness is necessary with a self-indulgent woman.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23

You'll have a conversation with a laughing man. Special treatment will make you happy. Pay heed to a coward's request.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22

Watch out for crooks. Don't be humble when you get the right idea. Respect will be given when you stand firm.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23

Your delicate hopes for love will thrive. Don't thoughtlessly shut out someone who cares. Break down obstacles with your exceptional ideas.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 21

There will be a pep talk about love. A whiner demands more freedom. A miserable guy needs to find a job.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21

You'll find sanctuary from a radical situation. See the wonderful opportunities all around. Now is the time to make a serious move.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20

Somebody's disdainful words will cause incredulity. Guide yourself away from unhealthy diet plans. Don't postpone a medical check-up.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18

A cherished wish finally comes true. Anything is possible if your mind is alert. A woman's chattiness will cause revelations.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20

Something very special will happen. Prepare for a reaction to your procrastination. Passing the buck will lead to despair.

This day in history

JAN. 6, 1929 — Mother Teresa arrives in Calcutta to begin her work amongst India's poor and diseased people.
 JAN. 6, 1942 — Pan American Airlines becomes the first commercial airline to schedule a flight around the world.
 JAN. 6, 1974 — In response to the 1973 energy crisis, daylight saving time commences nearly four months early in the United States.
 JAN. 6, 1980 — The beginning of the first GPS epoch.
 JAN. 6, 2005 — Edgar Ray Killen is arrested as a suspect for the 1964 murders of three civil rights workers.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

WORDY GURDY

1. Is able to extend across, as a bridge (1)
 2. Touch Achilles' vulnerable foot part (1)
 3. Concealed a tentacled sea creature (1)
 4. Which gash? (1)
 5. Composer Gustav's U.S. currency (2)
 6. Fair-haired woman's wizard sticks (1)
 7. Great frightener of one who proves a claim (4)

BY TRICKY RICKY KANE
 Every answer is a rhyming pair of words (like FAT CAT and DOUBLE TROUBLE), and they will fit in the letter squares. The number after the definition tells you how many syllables in each word.

ANSWERS
 1. MATHLETES 2. FEELIE HEEL 3. HID SQUID 4. WHAT CUT
 5. CAN SPAN 6. FEELIE HEEL 7. BLOWNDES WANDS 8. VERTIGINE TERRIFIEIN
 9. MACHINES 10. FEELIE HEEL 11. HID SQUID 12. WHAT CUT
 13. CAN SPAN 14. FEELIE HEEL 15. HID SQUID 16. VERTIGINE TERRIFIEIN
 17. MACHINES 18. FEELIE HEEL 19. HID SQUID 20. WHAT CUT
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 297. MACHINES 298. FEELIE HEEL 299. HID SQUID 300. WHAT CUT
 301. CAN SPAN 302. FEELIE HEEL 303. HID SQUID 304. VERTIGINE

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